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DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

May 2014

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I send warm greetings as you gather for the Birth through Grade 3 Policy Forum.

Education is the Commonwealth's calling card around the world. Our excellent public and private institutions produce our future leaders, engineers, doctors and scientists. It is vital that we continue to invest in early education. Access to high-quality early education programs and community-based support gives every child in Massachusetts the very best chance to succeed in the 21st century economy. We know from academic research, from years of public policy and from our own experience as parents that investing in our children at a young age pays huge dividends for them and for our communities as a whole.

I would like to send a special thank you to Commissioners Weber, Chester, and Freeland for their leadership in early education. Additionally I would like to acknowledge the National Governors Association for all of their support. I appreciate your commitment to our children and families and your service to the Commonwealth.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful forum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval Patrick", written over a large, stylized loop.